

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 37, 54, 56, and 57 have been amended. Claims 35, 36, 51-53, 55, and 62-67 have been cancelled, and Claims 68 and 69 are new. Claims 1-34, 37-50, 54, 56-61, 68, and 69 remain.

- 5 Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the interview of March 19, 2010, during which the claims were discussed.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 10 Claims 8-10, 16, 18-19, 21, 32-33, 35-36, 40, 45, 50-56, and 60-65 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim. Allowable Claims 35 and 36 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1, as further described below. Claims 51-53 and 55 have been incorporated into Claim 37, as further described below. Claims 62-67 have been incorporated into Claim 57, as further described below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Marouf et al. in view of Cox et al.

- 15 Claims 1-7, 11-15, 17, 20, 22-24, 34, 37-39, 41-44, 48-49, 57-59, 66, and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,475,190, issued to Marouf et al. ("Marouf"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,574,321, issued to Cox et al. ("Cox"). Applicant traverses.

- 20 Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate now-cancelled dependent Claims 35 and 36, which are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (Office Action, p. 2, paragraph 2). Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate now-cancelled dependent Claims 51-53 and 55, which are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (Office Action, p. 2, paragraph 2).
- 25 Claim 57 has been amended to incorporate now-cancelled dependent Claims 62-67, which are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (Office Action, p. 2, paragraph 2). New independent Claim 68 is a corresponding system claim to independent method Claim 1 and also incorporates the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent
- 30 Claims 35 and 36. New independent Claim 36 is a corresponding system claim to

independent method Claim 37 and also incorporates the subject matter of now-cancelled dependent Claims 51-53 and 55.

Accordingly, a rejection of independent Claims 1, 37, 57, 68, and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) cannot stand. Claims 2-7, 11-15, 17, 20, 22-24, 34 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 38, 39, 41-44, 48-49 are dependent upon Claim 37 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 58 and 59 are dependent upon Claim 57 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Marouf et al. in view of Cox et al. and in view of Skeen et al.

Claims 25-31 and 46-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Marouf in view of Cox and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,531, issued to Skeen et al. ("Skeen"). Applicant traverses.

Adding the teachings of Skeen to the teachings of the Marouf and Cox combination introduces further functionality. However, as discussed above, the Marouf-Cox combination fails to render Claims 1 and 37 obvious, and the addition of Skeen does no more to support an obviousness rejection of Claims 25-31 and 46-47. Claims 25-31 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Claims 46-47 are dependent upon Claim 37 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed by the applicant and is considered to be no more pertinent than the prior art references already applied.

No excess claims fees are due for new Claims 68 and 69.

Claims 1-34, 37-50, 54, 56-61, 68, and 69 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Entry of the foregoing amendments is requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

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